

Claims

*Sub A1*

1. A method for cleaning vehicle windows by means of a wiper with a wiper strip (12), whose wiper lip (16) rests against the vehicle window, characterized in that the wiper strip (12) is set into oscillations lateral to its longitudinal direction (20) during the wiping operation and/or shortly before it is begun.
2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the oscillations have a frequency in the ultrasonic range.
- 10 3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the oscillations are generated by piezoelectric elements (10).
- 15 4. The method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that washing water is applied to the vehicle window close to the wiper strip (12) during the wiping operation.
- 20 5. An apparatus for executing a method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that piezoelectric elements (10) are disposed parallel to the wiper strip (12), which act on a wiper blade rubber (14) in the wiping direction (24) and are controlled by an electronic control unit (30).
- 25 6. The apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that the piezoelectric elements (10) are supported in a flexible support (18) perpendicular to the vehicle window.
7. The apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the support (18) of the piezoelectric elements (10) is formed onto a profiled back (28) of the wiper blade rubber (14).

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8. The apparatus according to one of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that when the wiper is first actuated after the vehicle has been parked and/or at outside temperatures below freezing, the control unit (30) activates the piezoelectric elements (10) before activating the wiping operation.